

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 18 as follows and add Claims 19-32 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A toner supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, said toner supply container comprising:

a container body configured to contain toner, said container body having an opening for permitting discharge of the toner; and

a sealing member configured and positioned to seal the opening,

said sealing member ~~having~~ comprising:

a welded portion which is welded to said container body; and

a tearing portion which is torn upon unsealing of the opening in a tearing direction along a tearing line,

wherein said welded portion has an inclined portion which is provided adjacent an end portion at which tearing of said tearing portion starts and which is disposed laterally outside of a the tearing line, and

wherein said inclined portion ~~being~~ is inclined inwardly as it extends toward the tearing line ~~with respect to a~~ in the tearing direction.

2. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said inclined portion is rectilinearly inclined.

3. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said inclined portion is inclined with a curvature.

4. (Currently Amended) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said welded portion is provided in the region where the tearing of said tearing portion starts with a concave portion which is concave toward a downstream direction with respect to the tearing direction.

5. (Currently Amended) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing member further comprises ~~has~~ an extension which extends from a ~~tearing-starting~~ tearing-starting side of said welded portion and which is folded back and extends to an end thereof, wherein the end of said extension is provided with a pulling portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing member is made of plastic resin film, and said tearing portion is formed by laser irradiation on ~~the~~ said plastic resin film.

7. (Currently Amended) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing member includes a cover film welded to said container body so as to seal the opening, and a tear tape configured and positioned to tear the cover film, wherein said cover film

comprises said welded portion and wherein the said tearing portion comprises ~~is defined by the~~
said tear tape.

8. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, said process cartridge comprising:

a developing container which is effective to develop a latent image on a photosensitive member with toner;

a toner container configured to accommodate the toner;

an opening, formed in said toner container, and configured and positioned to supply the toner into said developing container; and

a sealing member configured and positioned to seal the opening, said sealing member having comprising:

a welded portion which is welded to said toner container; and

a tearing portion which is torn in a tearing direction along a tearing line upon unsealing of the opening,

wherein said welded portion has an inclined portion which is provided adjacent an end portion at which tearing of said tearing portion starts and which is disposed laterally outside of a the tearing line, and

wherein said inclined portion ~~being~~ is inclined ~~inwardly~~ as it extends toward the tearing line in ~~with respect to a~~ the tearing direction.

9. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said inclined portion is rectilinearly inclined.

10. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said inclined portion is inclined with a curvature.

11. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said welded portion is provided in the region where the tearing of said tearing portion starts with a concave portion which is concave toward the downstream direction with respect to the tearing direction.

12. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said sealing member is made of resin film, and said tearing portion is formed by laser irradiation on the said resin film.

13. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said sealing member includes a cover film welded to said toner container so as to seal the opening, and a tear tape configured and positioned to tear the said cover film, wherein said cover film comprises said welded portion, and wherein the said tearing portion comprises said ~~is defined by the~~ tear tape.

14. (Previously Presented) A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said tearing portion is provided at each of lateral sides of the opening, and said inclined portion is provided at each of positions outside of said tearing portion in the width direction thereof.

15. Cancelled

16. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said tearing portion is provided at each of lateral sides of the opening, and said inclined portion is provided at each of positions outside of said tearing portion in the width direction thereof.

17. Cancelled

18. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said sealing member further comprises ~~has~~ an extension which extends from a ~~tearing-starting~~ tearing-starting side of said welded portion and which is folded back and extends to an end thereof, wherein the end of said extension is provided with a pulling portion.

19. (New) A toner supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a container body configured to contain toner, said container body being provided with an opening for permitting discharging of the toner; and

a resin film configured and positioned to seal the opening, said resin film including:

a welded portion which is welded to said container body and which includes lateral sides; and

two tearing portions, each provided on one of said lateral sides of said welded portion, wherein said tearing portions are torn in a tearing direction to unseal the opening,

wherein said welded portion includes:

a surrounding portion configured and positioned to surround the opening; and

an extension extending at a position laterally outside of one of said tearing portions from said surrounding portion in an upstream direction with respect to the tearing direction in which said tearing portions are torn,

wherein said extension has an inclined portion at a leading end portion of said extension with respect to a direction in which said extension extends, and

wherein said inclined portion is inclined as it extends toward one of said tearing portions in the tearing direction.

20. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 19, wherein said inclined portion is rectilinearly inclined.

21. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 19, wherein said inclined portion is inclined with a curvature.

22. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 19, wherein said welded portion is provided in the region where the tearing of said tearing portions starts with a concave portion which is concave toward a downstream direction with respect to the tearing direction.

23. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 19, wherein said resin film further comprises a portion which extends from a tearing-starting side of said welded portion and which is folded back and extends to an end thereof, wherein the end of said portion which extends from the tearing-starting side of said welded portion is provided with a pulling portion.

24. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 19, wherein said tearing portions are provided by using laser irradiation.

25. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 19, further comprising a tear tape configured and positioned to remove said resin film, wherein said tearing portions comprise said tear tape.

26. (New) A toner supply container detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a container body configured and positioned to contain toner, said container body being provided with an opening for permitting discharging of the toner; and

a tearable resin film configured and positioned to seal the opening, said resin film including a welded portion which is welded to said container body,

wherein said welded portion includes:

a portion to be removed from said container body by tearing of said resin film in a tearing direction;

a portion not to be removed from said container body; and

an auxiliary welded portion configured and positioned to suppress peeling of said portion of said welded portion not to be removed from said container body,

wherein said auxiliary welded portion is provided at positions laterally outside of said portion to be removed from said container body,

wherein said auxiliary welded portion has an inclined portion at a leading end portion thereof with respect to a direction in which said auxiliary welded portion extends, and

wherein said inclined portion is inclined as it extends toward said portion to be removed in the tearing direction.

27. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 26, wherein said inclined portion is rectilinearly inclined.

28. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 26, wherein said inclined portion is inclined with a curvature.

29. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 26, wherein said welded portion is provided in the region where the tearing of said tearable resin film starts with a concave portion which is concave toward a downstream direction with respect to the tearing direction.

30. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 26, wherein said resin film further comprises an extension which extends from a tearing-starting side of said welded portion and which is folded back and extends to an end thereof, wherein said end of said extension is provided with a pulling portion.

31. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 26, wherein said portion to be removed from said container body by tearing of said resin film is provided by using laser irradiation.

32. (New) A toner supply container according to Claim 26, further comprising a tear tape configured and positioned to remove said tearable resin film, wherein said portion to be removed from said container body by tearing of said resin film comprises said tear tape.